

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 613

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the adverse societal impact of the portrayal of violence in the electronic media.

WHEREAS, decades of social science research reveal the strong influence of televised violence on the aggressive behavior of children and youth; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be evidence that exposure to violent media increases feelings of hostility, thoughts about aggression, and suspicions about the motives of others, and

WHEREAS, perpetrators go unpunished in 73 percent of all violent scenes on television, and therefore teach that violence is an effective means of resolving conflict. Only 16 percent of all programs portrayed negative psychological or financial effects, yet such visual depictions of pain and suffering can actually inhibit aggressive behavior in viewers (National Television Violence Study, 1996); and

WHEREAS, studies further suggest that sexualized violence in the media has been linked to increases in violence toward women, rape myth acceptance, and anti-women attitudes; and

WHEREAS, television and media violence negatively affect the maturation of our children, the social development of our young adults, and the equilibrium of our citizens who are mentally impaired, and this important issue should be carefully studied by this Body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the adverse societal impact of the portrayal of violence in the electronic media, including television, video games, and other interactive media.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as part of its study, the committee should identify ways and means to impress upon the entertainment industry that the depiction of the consequences of violent behavior in the electronic media should be associated with negative social consequences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of (3) members of the House of Representatives and (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly no later than February 1, 2009, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.